

Supervisor Romaine Applauds Comptroller DiNapoli's Position Concerning LIPA Reform Act Shortcomings

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Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine applauded NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli for issuing his recent report, "A Public Authority in Transition," criticizing Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2013 LIPA Reform Act. In the report, the Comptroller indicated that mechanisms for oversight of the utility have been greatly curtailed despite creating the Long Island office of the NYS Department of Public Service. His report also indicated that LIPA customers will experience rate increases up to \$375 million over the next three years, and debt on the mothballed Shoreham plant to swell to \$8.3 billion.

Supervisor Romaine said, "I am heartened that the Comptroller has confirmed Brookhaven Town's stance on this issue and has listened to our request to join us on behalf of the residents and ratepayers. Under the LIPA Reform Act, rates are out of control, there is less transparency and increased costs. This has a negative impact on our local economy and it brings into question the underpinnings of this deal. We will follow up with a meeting with the Department of Public Service and continue to fight these rate increases on behalf of our residents."

On June 9 of this year, the Supervisor held a press conference calling on Comptroller DiNapoli to undertake a binding review of the proposed \$440 million LIPA/ PSEG rate increase and reject it. Also present in support of the Town was Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy, who previously stood with Supervisor Romaine at an April 16 press conference to announce that Brookhaven would join the County in opposition to the hike.

In May, the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) granted the Town "party status" to intervene as an official party in response to a letter of request sent by Supervisor Romaine. In addition to the Town of Brookhaven, permission was granted to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049; Nassau County; the Natural Resources Defense Council; NRG Energy, Inc. and Suffolk County.

A copy of the Town's Post Hearing Memorandum of Law Reply regarding the proposed rate hike is attached.

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